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25X1

143

COUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC General Military Information

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

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DATE OF CONTENT

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22 September 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES

3

ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

1. Between 5:30 p.m. and 6 p.m. on 31 August 1953, 9 T-43 tanks, [redacted] were detained at the Wittenberg freight station. JS-3 tanks [redacted] left for the Flak Kaserne, the other tanks for the Beseler Kaserne.¹
2. At 5:30 p.m. on 24 August, a shipment of about 9 x 100-mm AT guns, 12 prime movers, 9 trucks and an undetermined number of troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets was seen at the Oberroeblingen railroad station, proceeding toward Sangerhausen.² At about 3 p.m. on 31 August, 2 JS-3 tanks, 13 T-34 tanks, and 2 trucks [redacted] were loaded on an undetermined number of flatcars; and an undetermined number of troops was loaded on about 5 boxcars, at the Jueterbog freight station.¹
3. Shipments entrained at the Halle freight station on 1 September included: about 20 amphibious vehicles and 1 large canoe at 5 a.m., and about 20 motor vehicles [redacted] towing several AT guns, at about 10 a.m. The latter shipment left toward Erfurt.³
4. On 31 August, the barracks installation west of Leipzigerstrasse in Altenburg was occupied by about 180 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets. Between [redacted] training activity.⁴
5. On 31 August, the barracks installation east of Leipzigerstrasse was occupied by about 250 troops. On 28 August, 4 x 100-mm AT guns, 4 half-track armored personnel carriers, 7 trucks and about 50 troops wearing red-bordered black epaulets with artillery insignia were detained at the freight station and left for the barracks installation east of Leipzigerstrasse.⁵

25X1

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SECRET

25X1

- 2 -

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6. [] after 31 August, maneuvers, which allegedly involved five divisions, were held in the Jena-Kahla-Stadt Roda-Buerger area. Tanks were allegedly assembled on the Jena-Kahla railroad line.

7. On 2 September, 10 T-34 tanks, numerous motor vehicles and 6 boxcarloads of troops were detrained at the Gera railroad station.⁶ At about 8 p.m. on 2 September, a shipment of 2 T-34 tanks, 6 AT guns, 2 mortars, 13 motor vehicles, 1 field kitchen and 12 boxcars passed through Gera, coming from the direction of Erfurt and proceeding toward Flauen.⁷

8. On 28 August, 20 to 30 trucks []
[] 3 tank trucks and an undetermined number of troops, officers and uniformed women were loaded on a train of 9 boxcars, 3 coaches and an undetermined number of flatcars at the Weimar railroad station. The materiel had come from Nohra and left toward Leipzig. At about 7 p.m. on 28 August, 15 trucks, []
[] carrying billeting equipment, 11 sedans, 1 ambulance, 2 tank trucks and 5 boxcarloads of officers and troops from the Tannenberg Kaserne were entrained at the Weimar railroad station and left toward Leipzig-Halle.⁸

9. On 15 August, a shipment of T-34 tanks and several trucks []
[] was seen en route toward Gotha, coming from the direction of Neudietendorf. At about 7 a.m. on 29 August, a train carrying 12 guns, which source believed were 120-mm field howitzers, and numerous trucks [] and including several boxcars occupied by troops, was seen at the Neudietendorf railroad station, with the engine headed westward.⁹

10. At about 3 p.m. on 31 August, 12 heavy prime movers, including []
[] 12 howitzers, 2 field kitchen, 1 bus, and truck [] were unloaded from an undetermined number of flatcars, about 430 troops from 12 boxcars, and ammunition from 3 boxcars, at the Eisenach railroad station. The train had arrived from the direction of Altengrabow.¹⁰

1. [] Comment. Presumably [] from Jueterbog. The T-34 tanks mentioned in paragraph 1 belong to the 52d Gds Tank Regt and the JS-3 tanks to the 78th Gds Hv Tank SP Regt.

2. [] Comment. The shipment presumably came from the Lossa training grounds.

3. [] Comment. [] units of the 21st Gds Mecz Div were presumably entrained.

4. [] Comment. The 43d Army Arty Brig of the Eighth Gds Army has been carried in Altengrabow since late April 1953. The bulk of the units of the 38th Army AT Arty Brig stationed in the barracks installation east of Leipziger Strasse were entrained on 14 August.

5. [] Comment. On 14 August, major elements of the 38th Army AT Arty Brig were entrained, presumably for Ohrdruf. []

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25X1

- 3 -

25X1

6. [redacted] Comment. This observation is confirmed by more detailed information [redacted]

25X1

25X1

7. [redacted] Comment. Possibly a shipment of the 39th Gds Mtz Rifle Div from Ohrdruf to Plauen.

25X1

8. [redacted] Comment. [redacted] units of the Eighth Gds Army, probably headquarters units, were entrained, probably for the command post exercise in the Angermuende area. [redacted]

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[redacted] entraining of a signal unit. [redacted]

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9. [redacted] Comment. Presumably shipments to Ohrdruf.

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